

Program	Description	Who is eligible? What land is eligible?	Length and type of agreement	Financial incentives provided by USDA	Participant obligations
Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	AMA reduces the risk associated with marketing ag products by helping producers diversify crops and livestock and implement conservation practices.	Agricultural producers who own or operate an ag operation. Lands include privately-owned cropland, pasture land or public land under private control during the contract.	2 - 10 year contract	NRCS contributes up to 75 percent of the cost of approved contracts. Historically underserved groups may receive up to 90 percent cost share.	Install and maintain conservation practices to NRCS standards.
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	CSP rewards farmers who are good conservation stewards of their land and offers compensation for additional enhancements.	Individuals, groups or entities who own or manage farmland with existing conservation practices and that is not already enrolled in WRP or GRP, Conservation Security Program or CRP.	5 year contract with possible renewal	Annual payments for maintaining existing conservation practices and compensation for additional enhancement activities.	Maintain or increase level of land stewardship.
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	EQIP helps promote farm and forest production by enhancing the environmental quality of soil, water, air, plants and animals.	Individuals, groups or entities who own or manage farmland, pasture land or non-industrial forest land.	2 - 10 year contract	Compensation for the cost of implementing conservation practices. Beginning, limited-resource and socially disadvantaged farmers may be eligible for higher payment rates.	Install and maintain conservation practices to NRCS standards.
Farm & Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)	FRPP works in partnership with eligible entities such as the Delaware Department of Agriculture to protect agricultural lands through the purchase of development rights.	Individuals, groups or entities who privately own farmland that contains productive soil resources and has a pending offer from an eligible entity, such as the state farm preservation program.	Permanent easement	NRCS contributes up to 75 percent of the easement purchase based on appraised fair market value.	Maintain agricultural land use.
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	GRP offers compensation for landowners to protect, restore and enhance grasslands.	Individuals, groups or entities who own or control land that historically has been dominated by grassland, forbs or shrubland. Publicly owned lands are not eligible.	Permanent easement or 10, 15, or 20 year rental contract	Compensation for the cost of implementing conservation practices. Rental contract: annual payments for the length of the contract Permanent easement: property's fair market value, less the grazing value. Not to exceed Geographic Area Rate Cap.	Maintain grasslands as agreed. Install and maintain restoration practices to NRCS standards.
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	WRP promotes the protection and restoration of wetlands through the purchase of easements and enhancement activities.	Individuals, groups or entities who own farmed wetlands, or land that has become wetland or that contributes to adjacent wetlands. Land must be restorable and suitable for wildlife benefits. Publicly owned lands are not eligible.	30 year easement, permanent easement or 10 year restoration agreement	One time easement payment based on fair market value or a Geographic Area Rate Cap. Compensation up to 100 percent for the cost of wetland restoration.	Maintain or restore wetlands as agreed. If restoration is needed, assist with the cost. Install and maintain restoration practices to NRCS standards.
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)	WHIP helps improve fish and wildlife habitat and restore natural ecosystems.	Individuals, groups or entities who own or manage farmland or non-industrial forest land. Publicly owned lands are not eligible.	2-10 year contract or 15 year critical habitat agreement	Compensation for the cost of implementing conservation practices. Payments for the costs of critical habitat agreements. Beginning, limited-resource and socially disadvantaged farmers may be eligible for higher payment rates.	Improve or restore wildlife habitat as agreed. Install and maintain wildlife practices to NRCS standards.

A Guide to the 2008 Farm Bill Conservation Programs in Delaware



If you own or manage farmland or forest land in Delaware, then the 2008 Farm Bill conservation programs can help you address natural resource challenges on your land. Sign-up is continuous for all conservation programs.

You will need a plan - a conservation plan or a forest management plan - to identify the resource concerns and conservation practices needed to meet your environmental objectives. Contact your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office for help in developing a plan and to apply for financial assistance to implement your conservation practices.

NRCS and conservation districts: partners in conservation

NRCS is a federal agency that helps people help the land through scientifically based, locally led voluntary conservation efforts.

NRCS works in partnership with Delaware's three conservation districts, which help identify and address natural resource concerns in local communities, and coordinate public and private resources to meet local needs on a grassroots level.

A conservation district is a division of state government established under state law to conserve and wisely manage resources and partner with state and federal agencies to deliver programs, education and technical assistance to their communities. Visit www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov, and click on "Conservation Districts" to locate your conservation district and to learn more.

Help for new, limited-resource and socially disadvantaged farmers

The 2008 Farm Bill continues to address the unique circumstances and concerns of farmers who are beginning (farming fewer than 10 years), have limited resources, or who are socially disadvantaged because they belong to racial or ethnic groups that have historically been subjected to prejudice. It provides for voluntary participation, offers incentives, and focuses on equity in accessing USDA programs and services.

Increased equity under the 2008 Farm Bill:

- Five percent of available Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) acres will be set aside to assist beginning farmers and another five percent to assist socially disadvantaged farmers.
- Increased payments for the costs associated with planning and implementing conservation measures may be available for socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers.
- Up to 30 percent of such payments may be provided in advance for purchasing materials or contracting.

Delaware NRCS Offices

• Dover Field Office

Serving Kent County
800 Bay Rd.
Dover, DE 19901
302-741-2600 ext. 3

• Georgetown Field Office

Serving Sussex County
21315 Berlin Rd., Unit 3
Georgetown, DE 19947
302-856-3990 ext. 3

• Newark Field Office

Serving New Castle County
2430 Old County Rd.
Newark, DE 19702
302-832-3100 ext. 3

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